

Octopus or Squid?

A Compare and Contrast Book



by AnnMarie Lisi

Octopus or Squid?

Octopuses and squids are both marine invertebrates that are sometimes confused. They both have eight arms, but one also has two tentacles. One has rectangle-shaped pupils but the other's pupils are round. One swims or walks along the ocean floor with strong arms. The other only swims using fins. One lives alone in caves while the other lives in open waters. Learn more about what these animals have in common and how they are different through the latest installment of the Compare and Contrast Book series.

Arbordale Publishing offers so much more than a picture book. We open the door for children to explore the facts behind a story they love.

The *For Creative Minds* includes

- Cephalopods
- Fun Facts
- Who Am I?
- Match the Adaptations

Thanks to Sarena Randall Gill, PhD, environmental educator and member of the board of the National Association for Interpretation for verifying the information in this book.

Arbordale's interactive ebooks read aloud in both English and Spanish with word-highlighting and adjustable audio speed. Available for purchase online.

AnnMarie Lisi knew from an early age that she was destined to work with the ocean. Growing up in a coastal Connecticut town, she frequently visited the local beach and aquarium with her family and spent many summer days and nights fishing and exploring the rocky intertidal. After graduating with her Bachelor's in Marine Vertebrate Biology from Stonybrook University on Long Island, she began working in the education department at The Maritime Aquarium. In her current role as Associate Director of Education, AnnMarie oversees many daily operations, including summer camps, in-person and virtual programs, overnight experiences, and building capacity for interpretation with the Aquarium's Gallery Ambassador volunteers. She hopes this debut book will inspire kids to learn about and protect ocean animals and their habitats. When not at work, AnnMarie enjoys exploring the great outdoors with her family, doing nature photography, and cooking.



AnnMarie Lisi

A note for parents and caregivers

Helping young children develop critical thinking skills is a gift they'll have for life. The book you are holding can help you to help them do just that.

Before reading the book, ask the child(ren) how they think these animals are alike or different. That helps you to understand what they already know or if they have any misconceptions.

After reading, go back through the book together looking at photos to find and discuss things. Ask verbal children to describe or explain what they see. Even young, non-verbal children can find and point to things. For example, have children find or point to:

- Arms & tentacles with suction cups
- Octopus huge heads, small mantles
- Squid long mantles, triangle-shaped heads
- Siphons
- Eyes (pupil shapes)
- Camouflage

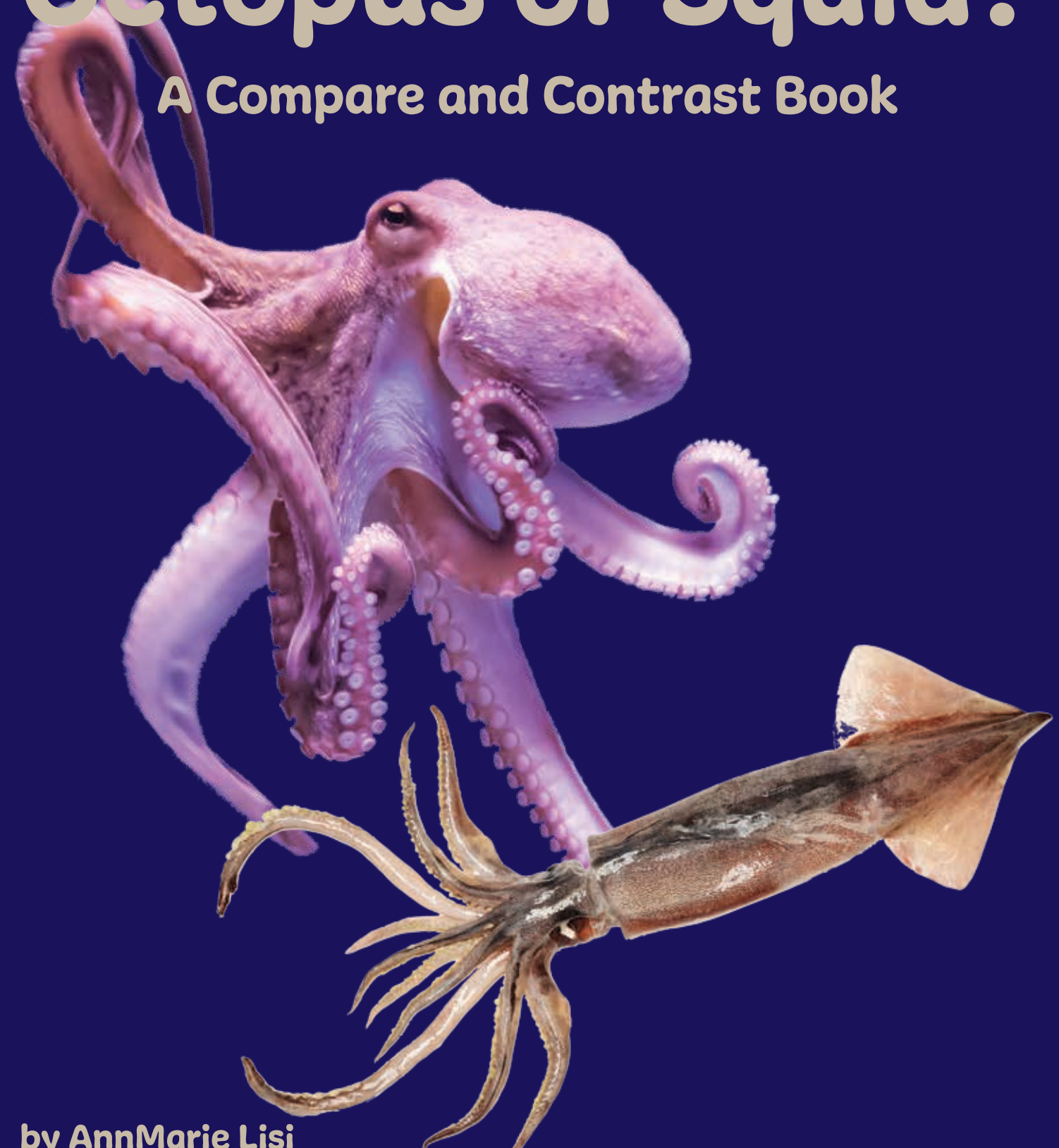
Look at some of the sizes mentioned and measure them out. Have child(ren) find something of a similar size or weight.

Ask children to describe one new thing they learned or found most interesting.

Do the "For Creative Minds" activities in the back of the book with them.

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Octopuses and squids don't have backbones like we do. They are invertebrates.



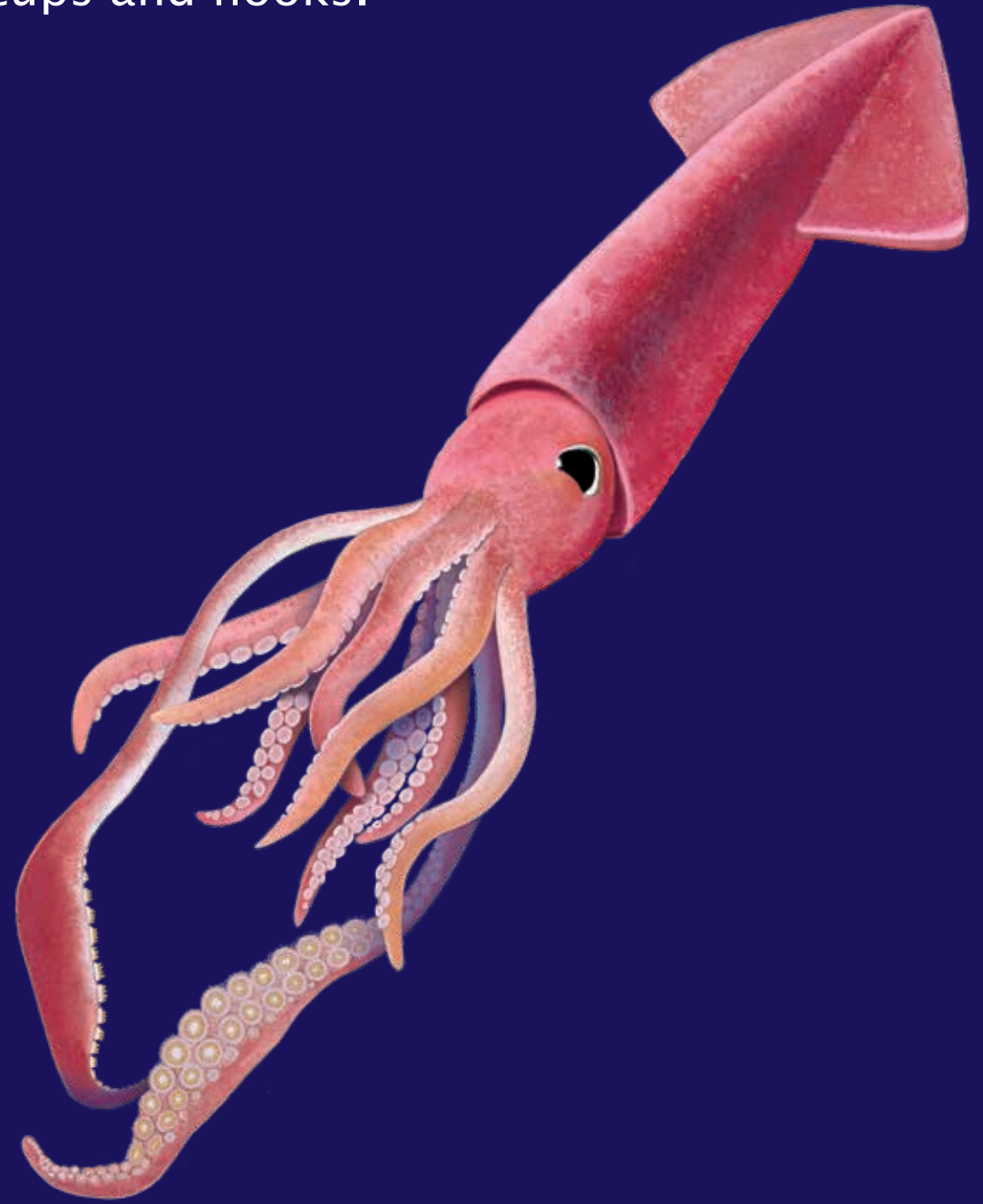
They live in saltwater and are found from coastal reefs to deep water habitats in tropical and temperate waters.



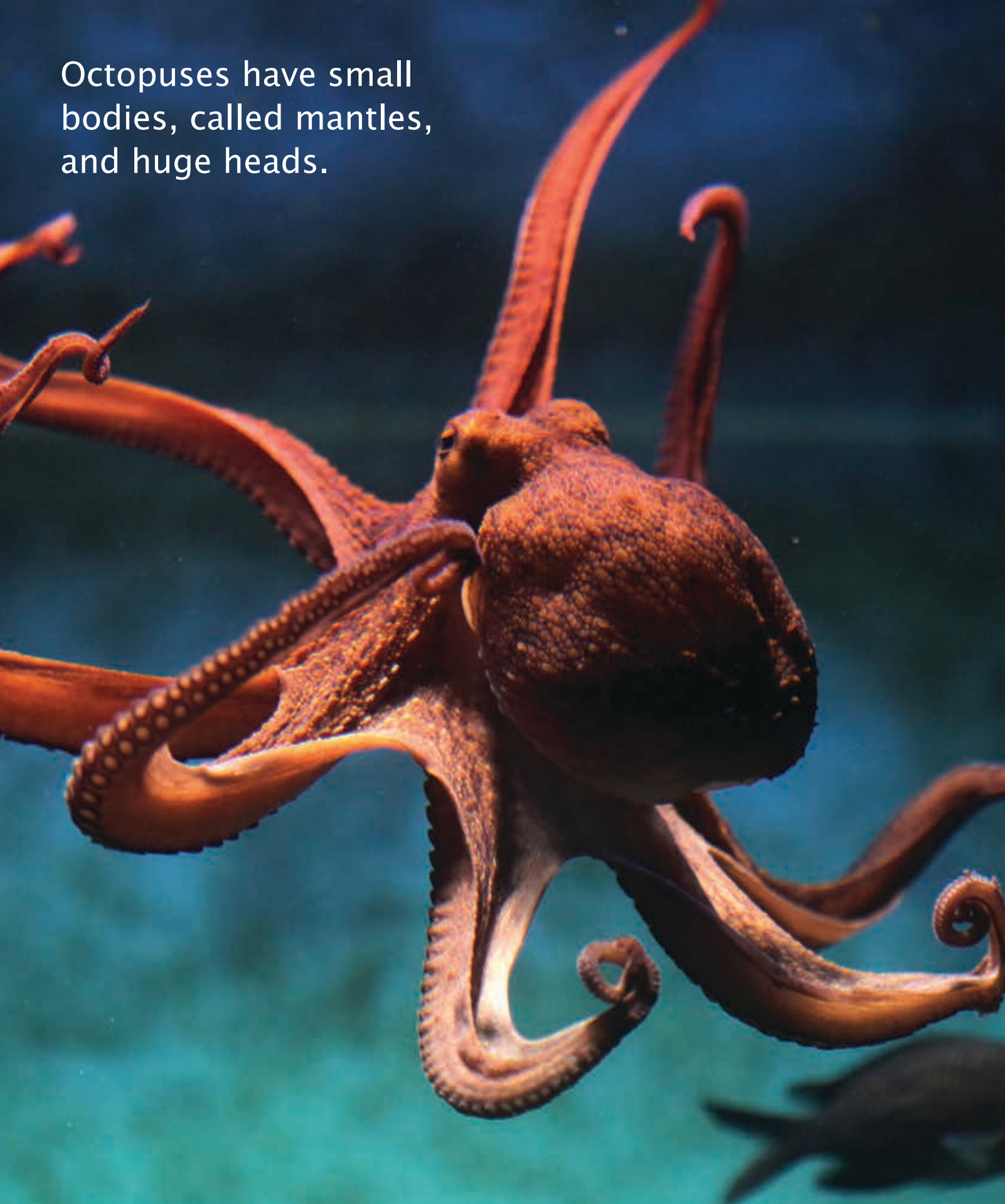
Octopuses have eight arms covered in suction cups.



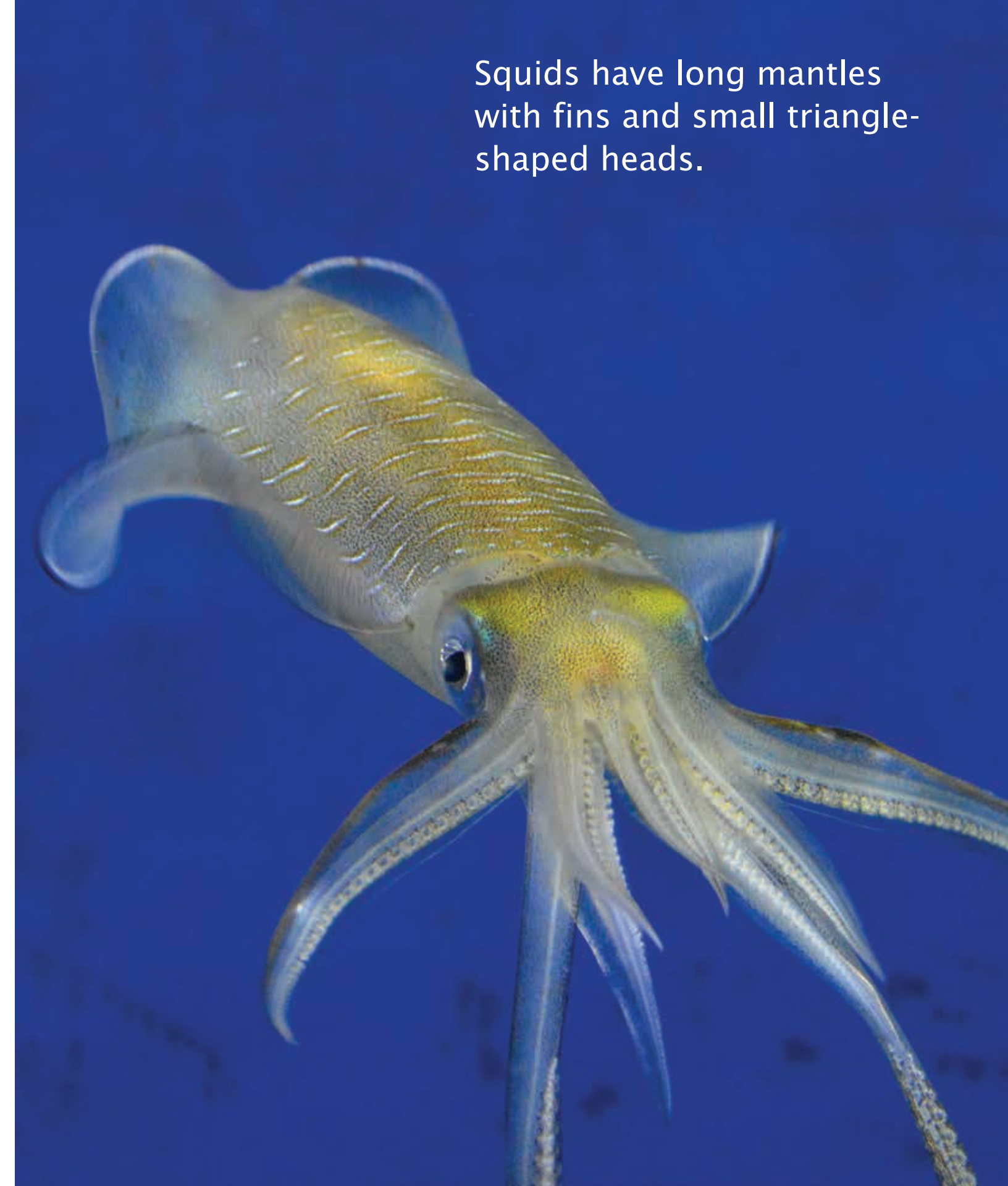
Squids have eight arms and two long tentacles covered in suction cups and hooks.



Octopuses have small bodies, called mantles, and huge heads.



Squids have long mantles with fins and small triangle-shaped heads.



Octopuses' strong arms let them "walk" on the ocean floor. They can use their arms to hold onto and move objects.



For Creative Minds

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Cephalopods

Animals like fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals all have backbones and are called vertebrates. Animals that do not have backbones are invertebrates. Insects and mollusks are invertebrates. There are almost 100,000 different kinds of mollusks, including snails and slugs. Some marine mollusks you might recognize are clams, oysters, and scallops.

Octopuses and squids belong to a group of marine mollusks called cephalopods which means "head-foot." Their arms attach straight to their heads! Other cephalopods include cuttlefish and nautilus.

Octopuses have eight arms. Squids and cuttlefishes have a combination of ten arms and tentacles. Nautilus have up to 90 arms that don't have suckers but do have sticky grooves to grab prey.



Fun Facts

Both octopuses and squids eat meat (carnivores). They grab prey with their arms (or tentacles). They use their suction cups to see if the animal tastes like something they should eat or not. If so, they carry the prey towards their mouth and use their strong beaks to tear meat into small pieces to eat.

Octopuses prey on crabs, lobsters, snails, and other shellfish.

Squids prey on fish and shrimp.

Squid beaks are so strong, they are sometimes found undigested inside the stomachs of their predators.



Octopuses and squids have 3 hearts and blue blood. They breathe oxygen from the water through gills.

Octopuses and squids can regrow an arm (but not a tentacle) if they lose one.

Some types of squids can swim as fast as 25 miles (40 km) per hour in short bursts.

Compared to its body size, a squid's eye is very large. A giant squid's eyes are about the size of a soccer ball!

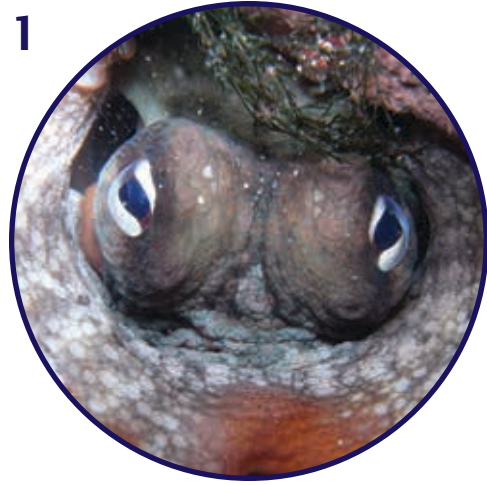


Octopuses are extremely smart. They have been known to "break out" of their exhibits at zoos or aquariums and wander around. Because they don't have any bones, they can squeeze through small holes and can use their suction cups to climb up or down.

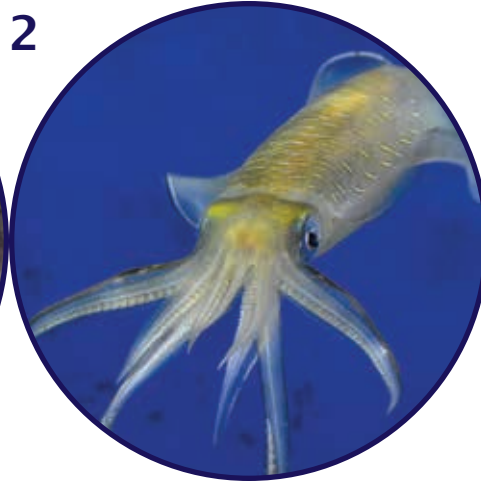
Some zoos or aquariums put carpeting or AstroTurf around octopus exhibits because the suction cups can't hold onto that material to get out!

Who Am I?

Using information learned in the book, see if you can identify which animal is which.



I have rectangular pupils.



I have eight arms and two tentacles.



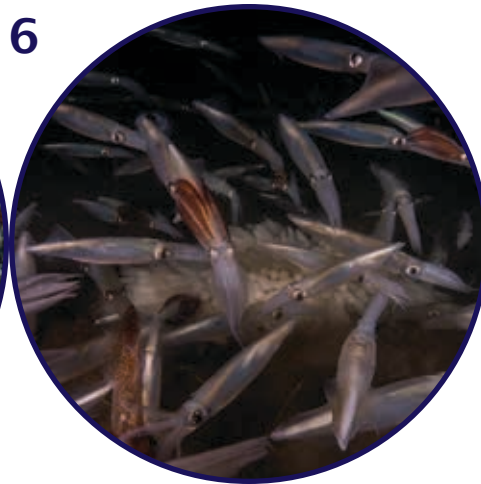
I push water out of my siphon to help me swim.



I live in saltwater in warm or temperate climates.



I sometimes walk on my arms. I can also hold onto and move things with my arms. I can even move shells and rocks around to make a den.

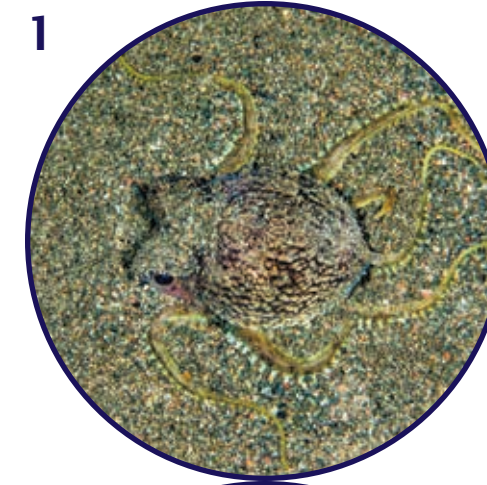


I may live in large groups.

Octopus: 1-rectangular pupils, 5-arms
Squid: 2-8 arms & 2 tentacles, 6-large groups
Both: 3-siphon, 4-saltwater habitat

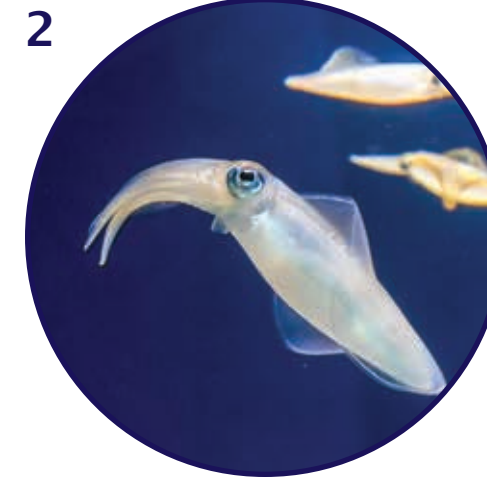
Match the Adaptations

Match the photograph to its description.



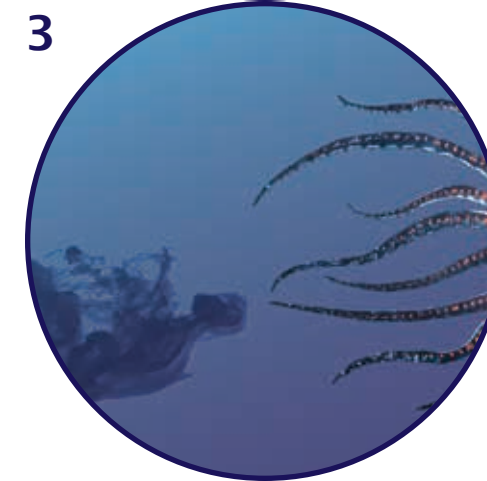
A

Both octopuses and squids release dark ink clouds to confuse would-be predators. The ink prevents the predators from seeing them swim away.



B

Both octopuses and squids change the color and texture of their skins to camouflage themselves. This helps to keep them safe from predators. It also helps them hide from the prey they want to catch to eat.



C

Squids have long mantles with fins that help move them through the water.

1-B; 2-C, 3-A

I would like to dedicate this book to my two daughters, Madelyn and Ella. May you always be curious, appreciate nature, and make the environment a better place for all—AML
Thanks to Sarena Randall Gill, PhD, environmental educator and member of the board of the National Association for Interpretation for verifying the information in this book.
Thanks to the South Carolina Aquarium for the use of the photo showing the back of the octopus exhibit. All other photographs are licensed through Adobe Stock Photos or Shutterstock.

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